

8. OBC Commission of A & N Administration:

The way Bengali Settlers have been declared OBCs in A & N Islands by the local Administration is highly unethical and undemocratic; it is condemned by one and all in the civilized society.

The Administration had (and still has) nexus with a few influential leaders of the Penal Settlers (Pre-'42 Local Borns); hence, the Administration acted accordingly to fulfill the ulterior motive of the said communal and fanatic leaders of the Penal Settlers. Therefore, the OBC Commission was an eye-wash only to complete the formalities to comply with the verdict of the apex court. The decision to declare the Bengali Settlers OBCs along with the Penal Settlers was pre-planned much earlier which was implemented by adopting various unethical, undemocratic and immoral procedures.

I. All members of the OBC Commission were Pre-'42 Local Borns and none was a Bengali Settler in the Commission:

The Administration constituted OBC Commission in 1995--'96 with a High Court Judge as the Chairman. The OBC Commission had four members, that is, the *Secretary (TW), the chairperson of the State Social Welfare Board (invariably a Pre-'42 Local Born lady appointed politically) and two nominated members.* Both the nominated members belonged to the Pre-'42 Local Born community only, that is, one from the Mopla Muslims and the other from the non-Mopla convict descendants.

Most of the officials of the OBC Commission including the dealing clerks also belonged to the Pre-'42 Local Born community. None of the appointed or nominated members in the OBC Commission of A & N Administration was a Bengali Settler. Thus, the OBC Commission of A & N Administration was by the Penal Settlers for the Penal Settlers and of the Penal Settlers.